

Budget gets thumbs-up from committee

District to add staff, meet new science rules

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

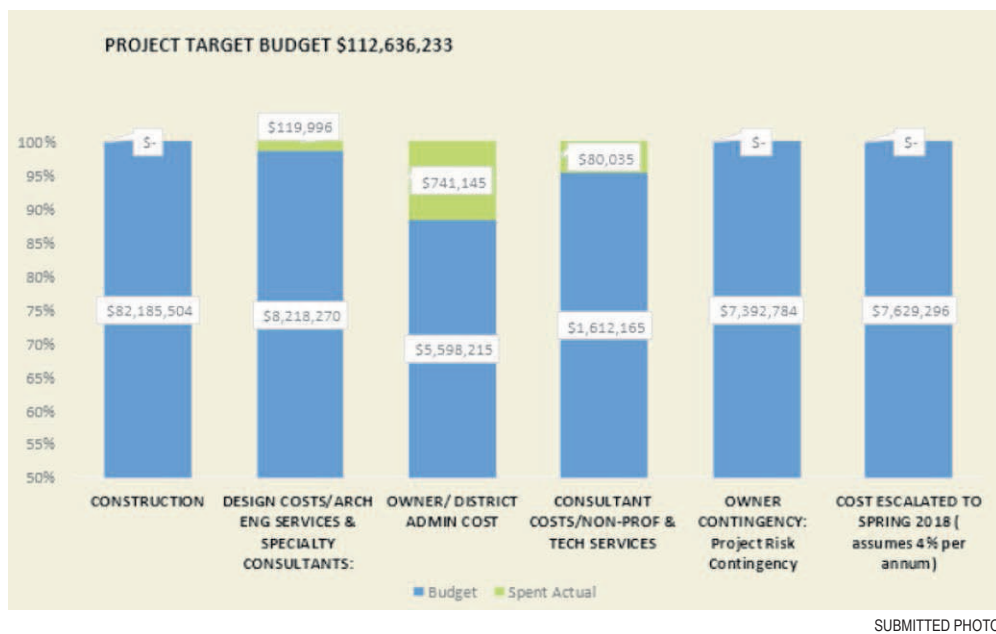
With a building project ready to launch and the state boosting coffers, the Seaside School District's budget committee has approved a \$20.6 million operating budget.

With an improving state economy, timber revenue and "excellent management," the district plans to move forward without reductions in staffing or programs, Superintendent Sheila Roley said in a budget message.

The school district plans to hire an elementary school guidance counselor and a new high school science and math teacher, among other personnel additions. The budget addresses rising student technology costs, with districtwide licenses for math and science software. A new science curriculum will be implemented in the fall to meet new science and technology standards.

A full-time licensed staff member will be hired to provide management support to students, staff, parents and the community at both elementary schools. An elementary teacher will also be added to reduce class size, allow more time to focus on student achievement and narrow the achievement gap, Roley said in her budget message.

A full-time social studies teacher will be added at Broadway Middle School, among other personnel additions.



The firm Day CPM submitted a target budget of more than \$112 million at the Tuesday, May 16, budget meeting.

School bond

An additional \$112 million capital budget for construction of the new K-12 campus was also presented for review Tuesday, May 16. That number grew from the original \$99.7 million bond approved by voters in November with the addition of \$4 million from the state, along with favorable bond sales and rates.

The district anticipates paying out \$22.5 million next year toward the project, endorsed by voters in November, Business Manager Justine Hill said in April.

Representatives of Day CPM and Dull Olson Weekes — IBI Architects provided an update on the construction project's progress. The district is soliciting comment while interviewing contractor candidates to work with architects to design the building.



Justine Hill



Sheila Roley

During construction, facilities repair and maintenance will continue to be addressed at all buildings. The average useful life of the buildings is 45 years, yet the average age of the high school, middle school and Gearhart Elementary School is about 65 years, Roley said.

The budget calls for new flooring at Gearhart Elementary School; a new roof pack at Broadway Middle School; playground safety measures

at Seaside Heights Elementary School and improvements at the high school.

The budget was approved unanimously without additional comment from the public, members of the board or the budget committee.

A public hearing on the budget will be conducted at the school district's June 20 meeting. The budget must be adopted prior to the end of the fiscal year in June.

New parking rules go into effect

Parking from Page 1A

"We are interested in educating business owners and moving into this gradually. We've never had timed parking, and when we put up signs, behavior isn't going to change overnight," Kucera said.

Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn is also adding two new public information officers to help enforce the new time limit between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., as well as the ordinance passed in April that says a driver moving a car within the same block or parking lot does not count as starting over with a new time limit.

Each officer will be full time and paid around \$14 an hour. After the summer trial period, the city will decide whether or not to retain the two new additions or cut back in the next fiscal year.

"We've been needing to add positions anyway because of an increase in tourists," Schermerhorn said.

Schermerhorn said he expects the added enforcement duties will mean an uptick in paperwork to process, but is approaching the pilot as "by trial and error."

"A lot will depend on how traffic is coming and going, but it will be effective to relocate parking from employees so they aren't taking it away from customers," he said.

Business concerns

Timed parking has received mixed reaction from some downtown business owners. Some see having downtown parking available for employees as a necessity, and others as a luxury.

Jeff Ter Har, the owner of Ter Har's clothing store on Hemlock Street, wrote a letter to the Cannon Beach Gazette that asserted the city did not involve business owners enough in a public process when making this decision.

"Love government that thinks it knows better about what to do than the businesses that rely on that parking for their survival," wrote Ter Har, a photographer who contributes to The Daily Astorian.

Jean Gogueu, who co-owns Josephine's on Hemlock, said the issue isn't so much about timed parking as it is about appropriate parking for employees. He takes issue with employees' use of street parking instead of public lots on Spruce because those could be used for customers, he said.

"Timed parking would help turnover, but in the long run people need direction on where to go," he said. "When time's up, where is (the driver) to go? It will be musical chairs."

Gogueu also said most of his business comes from foot traffic, so shortening the amount of time one can park there won't necessarily increase business.

Melisa Colvin is the gallery manager at Bronze Coast Gallery on Hemlock, and she also expressed that high turnover wouldn't necessarily bring in more customers because most business is driven by foot traffic.

Nevertheless, she believes timed parking is worth a try.

"I would like to see how it goes. I don't know if it will solve the problem, but maybe it could be seasonal," Colvin said. "It would break the tendency of people who work down here to park and leave their car all day."

The consultant hired by the city will monitor the situation throughout the summer and present his findings to the City Council in the fall.



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Cars are parked where the city plans to implement timed parking on Hemlock Street between Second and Third streets.

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Arch Cape committee is denied again

By Jack Heffernan
EO Media Group

Despite significant opposition from numerous Arch Cape residents, Clatsop County has dissolved the unincorporated community's Design Review Committee for the third time.

The Board of Commissioners, minus the absent Commissioner Lisa Clement, approved an ordinance 3-1 Wednesday, May 24, that nixed the committee. Commissioners previously voted twice to approve the ordinance, and twice opponents challenged the ordinance with state Land Use Board of Appeals. In the most recent appeal, the state found that the county failed to provide public notice in a newspaper of general circulation.

The state then sent the decision back to the Board, which held a public hearing earlier this month. Following the contentious public hearing, commissioners called for an emergency vote and decided 4-1 to dissolve the committee once again. But since the emergency vote was not unanimous — Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan voted against it — the Board held another public hearing Wednesday, needing a simple majority to pass the ordinance.

Officials have argued the committee is redundant, as no other part of the county has its own design review committee. Instead, residents present proposals directly to the County Planning Department.

County counsel Chris Crean pointed out Wednesday that, while the committee will no longer serve as a quasi-judicial board through the county, its independence will allow members to advocated more openly for or against projects as residents of Arch Cape.

Staff and commissioners also have accused members of the committee of not following procedural or public meetings rules and intimidating residents with whom they disagree.

Opponents of the ordinance, meanwhile, have rebuked the accusations and voiced concerns about Arch Cape residents' loss of power to review lands in their own community. Residents who support the committee, which was formed in the 1970s, presented a petition with 216 signatures and 94 comments at the public hearing earlier this month.

"We lost a good relationship between the commissioners and the residents because of the way this was handled," said Jim Jenvold, an Arch Cape resident. "I think the county could've gotten pretty much everything they wanted if they were to come to us respectfully and said, 'Let's work this out together.' I think you wasted a lot of good will with our community."

Committee member Tod Lundy said after the hearing that the decision is final, though Michael Manzulli, a former committee member who has been actively involved in trying to save it, added they will look into all available options.

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